MONTEREY NEWS

February 2019
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIIII · Number 2

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Swap Shop, Church foyer

Mark Makuc

The new library space was roofed, waterproofed, and enclosed in a dash to beat the weather. Follow the progress on MontereyMassLibrary.org, building project blog.

Because their lives unfold at such a vastly different pace than ours, and in such different ways, their movements, and who knows what else, become invisible.
Seeing the Trees page 12

The townspeople decided, for reasons unreported, to have a summertime celebration, which they called "I Love Monterey Day."
Looking Back Twenty Years pgs. 18–24

Bobcats at Heffernans' page 29

One wonders what this community would be like without the many people like Kyle Pierce who have a long history and dedication to the town.
Who's Who page 11

Jane Yolen, has said, "Tim is a triple treat. He can sing, he can play a variety of wonderful instruments, and he can tell whopping good tales!"
Free Concert page 9

If you care about broadband and want to see the town finally enter the digital age come to the select board meeting.
Broadband Solution page 2

A member of the select board will not talk to the town administrative assistant outside of board meetings and emails following a contentious meeting.
Monterey Select Board page 4

TRI is now the sole administering agency for the housing rehab grants.
Housing Rehab Grants page 3

The amount and frequency of rain storms has seriously impacted our roadways, beyond what our small highway department can adequately handle.
Dirt Roads page 6

Bob Thieriot was a big man and a large presence, not often easy right to the end. It was good, hard work laying him to rest.
Swing Low page 22

Wowbrary will email weekly lists of new acquisitions, allowing you to know about the newest items before you come to the library.
Library News page 7

I was interested in hate because I don't like it when people hate. I particularly don't like it when I do.
Words Like Invasive, Hate page 25

Wildlife-Foxes page 29

Monterey Planning Board
Proposed Marijuana Bylaw

Notice of Public Hearing
Wednesday, February 13, at 7 p.m.
Monterey Community Center

The Town of Monterey Planning Board, as a result of a unanimous vote at the planning board meeting on July 26, 2018, is holding a public hearing to gather public input and review the following proposed bylaw change.

Proposed Changes to Bylaw:
Add to the table of uses Section 3.1.3

L. Marijuana Uses	AR	LS	B
Recreational Marijuana retail sales	N	N	BA
Medical Marijuana Retail sales	N	N	Y
Recreational Marijuana cultivation	Y	N	Y

AR:Agricultural–Residential District (most of Monterey)
B: Business District (approximately from the new fire station to the old fire station on Route 23)
LS: Lake Shore District (around the lakes within 260 feet)
N: No, prohibited use
Y: Yes, allowed or permitted use by-right
BA: Use available by special permit from the Board of Appeals

—Tom Sawyer
Monterey Planning Board

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The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Broadband Committee Review
Recommendations to the Board

The Monterey Broadband Committee has completed a review of the single proposal received from the issuance of our last request for proposal (RFP). The review centered around the following issues, which were developed to represent the needs of Monterey today and into the future.

- Monterey believes that fiber-to-the-home is the only viable answer to the broadband needs of our community.
- The monies allocated to Monterey from the state will be used for the whole project.
- Monterey believes that the installation cost to a home should be reasonable, and not to exceed $500.
- Monterey believes that the provider installing a fiber-to-the-home system without a TV package should provide an educational component that includes installation and programming help for all those signing up.
- Monterey believes that the provider should provide additional help for low-income residents through support with the installation cost, and a lower monthly subscription fee.
- The broadband committee has, from the start, believed that the provider should be able to provide a guarantee that the work as negotiated will be completed in a timely fashion and that the future operation is secure.

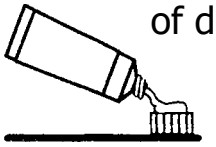
After reviewing the received proposal the committee feels confident that Fiber Connect, LLC has met or exceeded all our concerns. On Wednesday, February 6, at 10:30 a.m., in town hall, the committee will formally present our findings to the Monterey Select Board. The select board will then take our recommendations, meet with Fiber Connect to begin negotiating a final contract and—the difficult part—negotiate with the Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) for the monies allocated to the town for the project.

Everyone is welcome to this important meeting. If you care about broadband and want to see the town finally enter the digital age come, and let the select board know how you feel.

—Monterey Broadband Committee
Larry Klein, Chair
Bill Johnson
Kenn Basler

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases of dentistry



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Lake Garfield Working Group

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) met at the town hall on January 14.

Foremost in our discussion was how to best integrate the work of this citizen advisory committee with the town select board in a manner that best fulfills the original intent and subsequent work of the committee. Aside from our monthly public meetings, this work has included facilitating scientific research and reporting on the ecological characteristics of the lake, conducting a town-wide survey concerning lake use among permanent and part-time residents, conducting research and interviews with local and nationally recognized experts on lake issues, monitoring contractors and assisting in efforts at invasive plant growth, and assisting in grant applications for reducing phosphorus loading in the lake.

As reported in the December issue of the *Monterey News*, we are currently focused on several issues that involve future funding including: continued scientific research and monitoring of the lake ecology, a 2019 grant application to reduce phosphorus loading in the lake, the monitoring and reporting of cyanobacteria growth, and the control of invasive Eurasian milfoil. Members of the committee have met with both the finance committee and members of the select board on two different occasions with the objective of investigating funding possibilities within the town, but we have not come to any conclusion. As we anticipate the eventual arrival of another season of lake activity, we will continue to work with these issues and encourage anyone interested to join us at the town hall for our next meeting, Monday, February 11, at 7 p.m., at town hall.

—Steve Snyder
Chair, LGWG

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Housing Rehab Grants

New Kid on the Block

The Resource, Inc. is excited to be working for the Town of Monterey to manage their FY18 housing rehabilitation grant award which will benefit homeowners in the towns of Monterey, Egremont, and Sandisfield. The Resource for Community and Economic Development (TRI) has been a significant contributor to successful housing rehab initiatives in Massachusetts for nearly two decades. The Resource Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt corporation specializing in housing rehabilitation.

Since its incorporation, TRI has successfully managed thirty-six individual town and regional CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) housing rehab projects, completing more than 763 individual units of housing rehabilitation for year-round residents in our region.

Housing Rehabilitation Grants

The housing rehabilitation program for Monterey, Sandisfield, and Egremont has funding to rehabilitate twenty-two homes. Each income eligible unit will qualify for up to $40,000 in moderate rehabilitation. Moderate rehabilitation includes, but is not limited to, roofing, siding, heating system and a hot water heater replacement, electrical, and plumbing issues, as well as doors, windows, and septic systems.

We look forward to applying our expertise to the Berkshires to work alongside local contractors and administration staff to bring housing rehabilitation to local towns. TRI, the housing rehabilitation sub-grantee, will report to Bailey Boyd Associates, who writes and administers CDBG grants throughout Massachusetts.

Grant Applications

It is important to note that TRI is now the sole administering agency for these grants in the three towns. Any homeowner who has filled out a one page "pre-application" during informational sessions with TRI should be receiving the full application in the next few weeks either via email (if provided to us) or through the United States Postal Service.

If someone has filled out a "pre-application" prior to this year's grant cycle with another agency, then they will need to fill out a new one and submit it to TRI.

Contacting TRI

This is a first-come first-serve program, so the sooner you return the application to us with your supporting documentation, the sooner we will be able to look at addressing your needs. We have a local office in Great Barrington located at 291 Main Street, Suite 314, in the Tom's Toys building. The office is open Monday through Thursday, and by appointment on Fridays. Both Melissa Vincent, Program Manager, and Dawn Odell Lemon, Assistant Program Manager, can be reached by telephone at 413-645-3448, or via email at melissa@theresource.org or dawn@theresource.org. (You can meet Dawn and ask her questions at the upcoming community potluck dinner on February 20. See page 5.)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the program or to receive an application and overview from staff regarding the housing rehabilitation program.

We look forward to working with you all for years to come.

—Melissa Vincent and Dawn Lemon
The Resource, Inc.

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Monterey Select Board
A Contentious Meeting

—Kristin Palpini, *The Berkshire Eagle*

Editor's Note: It is not often that Monterey meetings draw the attention of local media, but a select board meeting on January 10 did. As the Monterey News *does not yet have a town reporter, and as this meeting was accurately reported in* The Berkshire Eagle*, permission to reprint the report was asked for and granted.*

A member of the select board will not talk to the town administrative assistant outside of board meetings and emails following a contentious meeting Thursday night called to hash out long-simmering tensions between the two officials.

The rancor between newest select board member, Donald Coburn, and town administrative assistant, Melissa Noe, has impeded regular town business, said select board members Chairwoman Carol Edelman and Kenneth Basler, as well as Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard, who attended the meeting at their request.

The situation had become so toxic the town was having a difficult time keeping minutes of select board meetings, Pollard said, noting that there are three versions of the Oct. 24 select board meeting minutes because the board and Noe couldn't agree on the finer points of what transpired.

"The issue here is how do we treat employees and interact with employees, how do we responsibly treat employees," Basler said.

"I'm trying to move on with issues in town," he told Coburn. "There are two of us dealing with issues, and you're dealing with minutes and conspiracy theories against you and there aren't any."

The meeting was called in response to a complaint against Noe, a 16-year town employee, by Coburn, who was elected to the board in May, and a complaint Noe filed with the Monterey Police Department against Coburn. This was the third complaint Noe has made against Coburn to the select board, Basler said. Around twenty people attended the meeting, which took place in the town offices.

Noe alleged verbal and physical harassment—the throwing of an audio recorder in her direction—during an incident at the town offices the previous Monday. Coburn accused Noe of being dishonest and unqualified for her job.

Toward the end of the hour-long meeting, Coburn volunteered to not talk to Noe outside of town meetings and emails. He said he would not come into Noe's office unless he needed to pick up warrants or other select board materials. Following that he would promptly leave. Pollard added that there should be room for small, in-person requests from Coburn to Noe—for example, an extra copy of a document or a specific file.

"Because you're not trustworthy," Coburn told Noe, "I will not go into the office other than to pick up warrants. I can do my job by emailing you and sending you any questions I have for the meeting."

Noe said the solution isn't perfect but agreed to it.

"I'm not entirely comfortable with it. I don't know when I'm going to get the next email that's nasty," she said. "This doesn't solve the problem, but it solves him not coming in and throwing things at me."

After Noe approved the arrangement, Basler and Edelman quickly closed the meeting while Coburn was still talking. With overlapping conversations and murmurs from the audience, it was not clear what Coburn was saying.

"The number of lies told tonight is extreme," Coburn said about the meeting.

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What Happened

Noe alleged that on the previous Monday Coburn yelled, threw an audio recorder at her and said she should be fired.

Coburn alleged that the incident was precipitated by his request four days prior to listen to Noe's audio recording of a recent select board meeting. Coburn disputed a portion of the written minutes. He said he did not sign or agree to a change of work notice on the town library construction project, but the minutes implied he had.

Noe erased the recording after writing the minutes and did not have it available for Coburn. He alleged that Noe erased the audio recording of the meeting to keep comments made there off the record. Noe said she usually erases meeting audio recordings after she finishes summarizing them in the official minutes.

Monterey does not have a policy on how long audio recordings of meetings should be kept for public record.

"Some stuff at the meeting, people asked for it to be off the record," Noe said. "That's not why I erased them."

Coburn said while he was in the town offices that Monday, he expressed frustration toward Noe but did not yell or throw a recorder at the town administrative assistant.

Coburn had asked to see the audio recorder Noe uses for meetings. She then gave Coburn the recorder. She said he threw it at her face, while Corburn claimed he tossed it onto her desk.

Statements by two town employees who were in the offices, town clerk Terry Walker, and assistant town clerk, Gary Shaw—though, not in the same room when the recorder was lobbed—affirmed that Coburn had yelled at Noe and threatened her employment.

After Coburn left the offices, Noe made a complaint to the Monterey Police.

"We're in fear, no one knows what will set him off yelling, swearing, or talking about firing and other forms of harassment," Noe said.

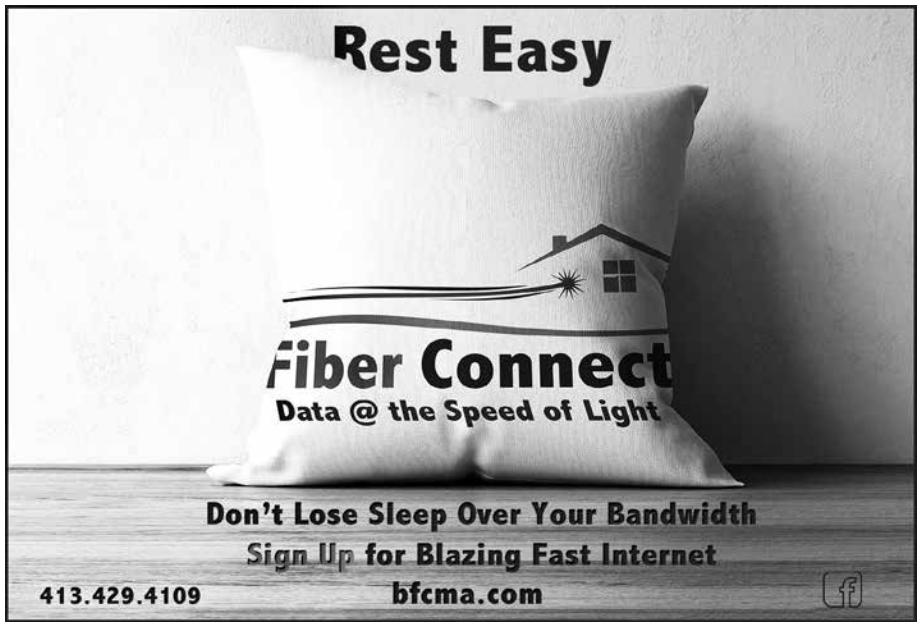
People in the audience Thursday night included former select board members Scott Jenssen and Steven Weisz, both of whom spoke favorably about Noe and her work for Monterey. Jenssen said Coburn, a retired judge, is acting like he's still in court—interrogating town employees and being a stickler. He told Coburn to resign.

"Take your [judge's] robes off, Don, or you're going to wrap yourself up in them," Jenssen said.

Coburn said he will fulfill his duty as an elected member of the select board and serve his full term, which expires in 2021, but he does not intend to run for re-election.

"Would I like to resign? I'd like to do you the favor, I really would, but I'm not because I was elected to do a job," Coburn said.

Kristin Palpini can be reached at kpalpini@berkshireeagle.com, @kristinpalpini, 413-629-4621.



Community Potluck Feb. 20

Dawn Lemon, TRI

Antoine Alston at the January potluck had attendees on their feet (one at a time!) doing a few exercises to illustrate his functional fitness program. Thanks to Antoine for an instructional, active evening.

For the February potluck, we have Dawn Lemon, the assistant project manager for the Monterey Housing Rehabilitation Program, now to be administered by The Resource, Inc (TRI). Dawn will be giving us an overview of the housing rehabilitation grant, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, and how it can provide up to $40,000 for home repairs per household, for homes owned by low-to-moderate income senior residents in the towns of Monterey, Sandisfield, and Egremont. She will have applications available and will be able to answer your questions.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, February 20, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome—please join us.

—Kyle Pierce

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In My View

Dirt Roads and Bikes

I hear two questions frequently—"What's going on with our dirt roads?" and "What's going on with our weather?" These questions are usually not asked together, but the new reality we face is that our changing weather patterns are having a direct affect on our dirt roads. The amount and frequency of rain storms has seriously impacted our roadways, beyond what our small highway department can adequately handle. Add the recent change in winter weather that now includes freeze/thaw cycles in January and February (think mud season extended), and it all adds up to further deterioration. So, what's the answer?

There is no easy answer, but here's what we're doing, and a few ideas about where we should be heading.

During the last eighteen months our highway department has worked with a computer mapping company to develop a program that identifies all roads in Monterey and then categorizes them for their repair or replacement needs and sequence, including the condition of the surface, the condition of culverts and bridges, and right-of-way problems including tree cutting. This has allowed us to develop a long-range plan for road maintenance and a year-to-year priority list of work needed, financing opportunities, and in-town budgeting.

The select board has joined forces with five other southern Berkshire communities in an effort to increase state funding through the Chapter 90 program but, more importantly, to draw attention to the different set of road needs that small rural towns have. One proposal is for a separate funding stream for what we refer to as "pass-through roads." These are the main thoroughfares like Route 23 and Route 57 that are not considered town roads, but each town is spending town monies and resources to maintain. We are also looking at hiring an engineering firm to work with all the towns at reduced rates.

We find ourselves pushing back at regulations and mandates generated in Boston but costly to implement in our rural area. We have had productive conversations about waivers and identifying towns with populations under three thousand for different funding sources. It is difficult to compete with larger towns and cities that have their own engineers and planners for state funding.

What are we doing in Monterey? In presentations and discussions with the finance committee and the select board, our highway department has made the case to expand the highway work force by adding one additional person. This would add to our productivity and ability to better handle the dirt road problem with a projected cost savings by cutting back on our use of outside contractors. We will be proposing this change at our upcoming town meeting.

We are beginning discussions about hard surfacing our dirt roads. There is a nostalgic sense of country and small town when we discuss dirt roads. There are some, myself included, who believe Monterey would not be Monterey without its maze of dirt roads, but my time on the select board and exposure to the thinking and reasoning of our highway department, engineers, and MA Department of Transportation (DOT) has caused me to re-examine my views. To pave our dirt roads is an expensive undertaking and something that would not happen overnight. It would also need community input with lots of discussion, but we've reached the tipping point. To continue to pour money and resources into dirt road maintenance, especially with the changing weather patterns creating year-round needs, requires a serious look at how Monterey maintains and funds its road program now and in the future. One answer would be to develop a ten-year plan that would gradually pave those roads in most need, analyze the ongoing cost with the cost of paving and the projected future savings.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on the above.

Bicycles, Bicycles, Bicycles

It must be the weather but I've gotten a number of calls from residents asking why we don't have bike lanes on our roads in Monterey. These concerned residents point to the recently released DOT report on bicycles and the need to include them when >

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Library News

Library Construction

Don't have an accident driving by the site rubbernecking! The building is up and visible from Route 23, or, if you can manage it, from across the river on the road to Bidwell Park (see the photo on page 1). If there's snow you'll have to walk through it to get to the park—we can't be responsible for vehicles stuck in the snow. A closely orchestrated push by Allegrone Construction achieved the desired result of making the structure weather tight. With temporary heat, the inside work can continue over the next couple of winter months. The electricians, plumbers, and heating and cooling installers will be able to do their tasks in a controlled environment. Outside, the roofing, siding, and even site work will continue as the weather allows. Thanks to everyone who worked through all the weather we have had since October, and this being New England, those workers have worked through and dealt with rain, snow, cold, and ice.

Mark Makuc

The building was enclosed just before heavy rains. Other photos of the project are on page 31, and on MontereyMassLibrary.org, and click on "Building project blog."

Several comments have been made by the design team and the contractor that the original building, raised in 1931, was very well constructed with excellent materials and workmanship. Allegrone is using this example to do their very best to make the addition worthy of the original section. As we transition to the inside work and details, we are confident the level of expertise will continue, and will result in a well built, aesthetically pleasing building that will serve the town of Monterey for a long time to come. Check out the blog to see the latest progress.

Wowbrary

The Monterey Library has joined wowbrary.org, with which some of you may be familiar from other libraries with this service. Wowbrary will email weekly lists of new acquisitions, allowing you to know about the newest items before you come to the library. You'll be able to put a hold on them as soon as you read the newsletter. It is very simple to sign up. Go to: wowbrary.org, enter the Monterey zip code of 01245, and follow the instructions. Beyond the titles there are reviews and rankings to help you decide which you would like to borrow. Try it out!

—Mark Makuc, Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

planning road repair/replacement. What is Monterey's policy on bikes and roads? We don't have one—but maybe it's time to explore the idea and develop a policy. If you're a bicyclist (or not—but interested) and would like to be part of the discussion, I'm proposing setting up a bike committee to review state policy, examine the need in Monterey, and determine whether we need a town policy. Help us with your input. We have a core group (the four who have been in touch) and I'm thinking we would set up a meeting near the end of February or beginning of March. If you're interested, call Melissa Noe at town hall (413-529-1637, ext. 111), leave your name and e-mail address or phone number, and let her know what evening would work best. Wednesdays are already out, so it would be a Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday for an initial gathering.

—Kenn Basler

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. Select board members have an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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Events Coming Up

History Talk

Bidwell House Museum will show a film of one of their prior history talks on Sunday, February 10, at 1 p.m. Come watch the 2013 talk by UMass Professor of Anthropology Eric Johnson, titled "The Garden in the Woods: Archaeology at Kampoosa Bog in Stockbridge." See the Bidwell House Museum article on page 25.

Federal ID Presentation

On Thursday, February 14, at 10 a.m., Karen Quinn, branch manager of AAA Pittsfield, will present a free informative talk on navigating the application process for the new federal ID. The "REAL ID" is available now to those renewing drivers licenses, and many of us have found the requirements far from easy to understand. Starting October 1, 2020, the REAL ID will be required for identification purposes for air travel or interstate bus travel unless you can show your passport.

Film Showing

Karen Allen will repeat the showing of her film, *A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.* based on the short story by Carson McCullers, on Friday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m. The movie was screened at numerous film festivals worldwide and garnered many distinctions and awards. You can read more about the film at atreearockacloudthefilm.com.

Karen, a well-known actor on stage and screen, directed this film, and will be on hand to also show us a short "About the making of the film" piece, and to answer questions. She will be accompanied by the film's producer, Diane Pearlman, and Sandisfield resident Jackson Smith, one of the stars of the film.

Admission is free, with donations happily accepted. Seating is limited to forty-nine people.

Family Mandala Class

A family mandala design class is being offered during February vacation week on Wednesday, February 20, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Children from third grade up are welcome and free. The fee for adults is $10.00. All materials are being supplied by Susan Cain, the instructor. Come and learn how to create your own personal mandala or use designs already available.

"Mandala" means circle or center. Within the circular design, repeated colors, shapes, and patterns are drawn. These can be free form or symmetrical. This creative process helps to bring relaxation to the individual as well as improving focus.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Call 413-528-3600 or email ccmonterey.org. Questions or additional information can be directed to Susan Cain at susancain9@gmail.com. Come, relax, and meet new friends at this stress-free workshop.

Concert on February 27

The Monterey Council on Aging is asking you to save the date to be entertained: February 27 at noon for a free concert with storytelling and folk music by Tim Van Egmond. (See page 9.) Light refreshments will be served. Please call Kyle Pierce at 413-528-9213 with your questions.

Ongoing activities

Ping Pong: Adult ping pong will be available at the Monterey Community Center on alternating Thursdays, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, from 2 to 4 p.m. The dates are February 7, 16, and 21, followed by March 2. Please come and enjoy the thrill of play with your friends and neighbors. Free.

Darn Yarners: First and third Thursday of each month (February 7 and 21). This is an informal group of fiber artists (knit, stitch, mend, spin, crochet and such) meeting to work on individual projects in a somewhat social setting. No cost. Facilitated by Wendy Jensen.

Singing for All: Tuesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m., except February 5 and 12. Group singing of familiar songs from various genres in a friendly, neighborly setting, led by Oren Rosenthal. Donation.

Library Book group: Monday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m. February's book is *Plastic: A Toxic Love Story*, by Susan Freinkel. Contact Laurie Shaw with questions 413-528-0343. No cost.

See our Event Calendar: Visit us at any time through our website (ccmonterey.org), where you will find the event calendar, use policies, and other information, and where you can donate to the center through PayPal. You can always contact Mary Makuc, event coordinator, at 413-528-3600 or calendar@ccmontery.org. We thank you for your support!

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Council on Aging

Movie Night

Our movie this month, recommended by Don Clawson, is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, a historical romantic drama, on Tuesday, February 12, at 7 p.m., at the town hall. Light refreshments (popcorn!) will be served.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Wellness Clinic is on Thursday, February 14 at Town Hall from 2-3 p.m. No appointments necessary.

Coming Events

On February 27, the Council on Aging is sponsoring folksinger and storyteller Tim Egmond. See the article to the right, and join us!

Friday, March 15 there is a bus trip to the New England Flower Show being held at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston. First Choice Tours bus to the show. $92 includes the show and transportation. Contact First Choice Tours at 800-730-9091 to reserve a seat on the bus.

The bus will depart from the municipal parking lot in Lee at 8 a.m. (The lot is behind the Morgan House on Main Street, and behind the post office around the corner.) I suggest you make a reservation ASAP in order to get a seat. Each person is responsible for his or her own reservation.

Next Meeting

The next Monterey Council on Aging board meeting is on Monday, February 11, at 10 a.m., at town hall. We appreciate input and suggestions from the community—please feel free to join us.

If you have any questions, please call Mary Ellen Brown at 413-528-1598.

—Kyle Pierce
Chair, Council on Aging

Free Concert

Tim Van Egmond

Folksinger and storyteller, Tim Van Egmond, will perform for a free public concert sponsored by the Monterey Council On Aging, on Wednesday, February 27, at 1 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Van Egmond's program, "Songs & Tales for the Season," will celebrate the beauty and the challenges of this time of year with stories, songs, and tunes ranging from the rib-tickling to the spine-tingling to the heart-warming. Van Egmond accompanies himself on guitar, hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, and limberjack (a wooden puppet that taps out a rhythm on a paddleboard). His dynamic talent, warmth, and humor create a moving and enjoyable experience for all.

Tim is a resident of Montague MA, He has performed for over thirty years throughout the country, appearing at hundreds of community centers, schools, libraries, museums, and festivals. He's also appeared on a number of television and radio programs. He's been chosen for the New England States Touring Program, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council's STARS Residency programs. Renowned author and storyteller, Jane Yolen, has said, "Tim is a triple treat. He can sing, he can play a variety of wonderful instruments, and he can tell whopping good tales!"

For more information, call Kyle Pierce, chair of the Monterey Council on Aging, at 413-528-9213.

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us February 20 to hear:
Dawn Odell Lemon

Dawn will explain the housing rehab grants and answer questions.

See the community potluck supper article on page 6.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

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Here's a Thought...

Mary Kate Jordan

The days are getting longer and it's the shortest month of the year. Now just what are we to make of that conundrum?

One definition of conundrum is, "a question asked for amusement." Here in New England, by February we tend to take our amusements where we can find them. Of course, we already know February's short. We even have a special name for the times when February grows twenty-four hours longer. Nothing's wrong with short; let's just enjoy the longer daylight. This month already contains far more celebrations than conundrums.

We all know Punxsutawney Phil makes his annual weather prediction on February 2. Even if you're reading this too late in the month to go to Pennsylvania for this year's hoopla, you may want to plan ahead for next year. Phil has his own website—groundhog.org.

You can join his birthday club, and "Gobbler's Knob," the site of his predictions, is open to tourists all year long. You can even purchase your own "Bucket List Ticket" for next year, if seeing Phil has been on your list.

And, with all respect to Phil, February 2 was a day of sacred celebration long before he arrived on the scene. On the Christian calendar, it's Candlemas, a feast of the purifying, healing power of light that has its roots in even earlier Jewish traditions. It's also when the candles to be used in the coming year's religious services are blessed.

The date also marks imbolc, halfway point between winter solstice and the spring equinox, and is acknowledged as the first day of spring in Celtic, British Isles, and Neolithic traditions. Dictionary.com tells me that the most common name for this month in old English was "Solmonath." That translates to "mud month." Obviously, spring does come earlier in the British Isles than it does for us here, unless it's deeply overcast in Punxsutawney.

February 3, two weeks after this article's deadline, will be Super Bowl 53. Now that the Pats will play in Atlanta, there's even more February excitement around town.

And, of course, even if you don't care about the game, *Go, Budweiser Clydesdales!*

Mid-month always brings Valentine's Day. Romantically involved or not, this Valentine's Day it can be good to remember we all have the ability to love, and to be grateful for love given and received. Last year Ash Wednesday fell on February 14. It was the first time those days collided since 1945, but will provide a dilemma again in 2024.

Although we no longer celebrate Lincoln's or Washington's birthdays as separate holidays, we do get the long-weekend benefit of Presidents' Day. In addition, my research for this article took me on a tour of many little-known February festivities and observances. I had no idea that the first Friday in February is Bubble Gum Day, February 9 is National Pizza Day, February 23 is International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day, or that February 27 is Polar Bear Day. (Apparently, polar bears are left-handed, but National Left-Handed Day doesn't come around until August 13.)

You can explore these, and more creative festivities, at holidayinsights.com. Whether you do or not, the long and short of this article is simple. Let's all enjoy this very special month.

—Mary Kate Jordan

It wasn't the cough that carried him off,
It was the coffin they carried him off in.

—Wyoming wisdom

Who's Who in Monterey
Kyle Pierce

I met Kyle Pierce at the Roadside Cafe on a chilly Friday morning. I've seen her about town, her name in the *Monterey News*, and for three years, helping Scott Cole out at the general store. We talked for quite some time over coffee and hot chocolate. I had no idea how much Kyle has given to this town or the extent of her family history in this part of the Berkshires.

Kyle's family history dates back to a time when our country was a new and an exciting place to be. Her roots in south county preceded her birth. Her grandparents operated an inn on Lake Buel from the 1930s to the 1950s. The lodge was called Littlecrest, as named by her grandfather, Dwight Little. It had five small cabins and a big lodge dating back to the early 1900s. Although Dwight was born in Sheffield, he had a school in Brooklyn, New York called the Flatbush Teacher Training Academy. When this "went under" he bought the land the cabins were on and the rest is history.

Littlecrest was also where Kyle's parents met and fell in love. Her father was a freelance artist who lived in Greenwich Village. He came up for a visit and met Kyle's mother who was helping her father with the inn. Littlecrest was where Kyle lived with her family from early April to November. She attended the Corashire School up to third grade. Her teacher was Bea Philips, a name some of you may remember.

Kyle's brother, who now lives outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, participated in the now legendary Gravity Races on Wallace

Maureen Banner

Hall Road. There is a great article written by Peter Murkett in *Monterey 1847-1997: A Local History* about the gravity car races.

Although Kyle's road finally led to Monterey, there were stops along the way. Named for her great grandmother, Agnes Kyle Thomson, who "was way ahead of her time," Kyle often took the road not taken by her parents. Her father was a graduate of Williams College and her mother and grandmother were Smith graduates. Realizing this path was not for her, she worked as a waitress in Boston where she met her first husband. She did go back to school later on and became a nurse. She felt this calling after caring for her father who was a cancer patient. Since "retiring" from nursing, Kyle worked weekends as an IV nurse. Over time, Kyle's family has grown to many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who she and her husband Don share. Don is retired, having worked at a satellite tracking station in New Boston, New Hampshire.

Kyle returned to Monterey in 2005. She has been a vital part of so many things since then. Sally Pullen and Diana Downing ran the Monterey Community Potluck Dinners at the "Fellowship Hall," a.k.a. the church basement. Kyle became involved and in 2006 she and Barbara Dahlman began organizing the potlucks. As many of you know the third Wednesday of every month, October through May, there is a speaker and delicious food prepared by attendees. Kyle wants people to know that, "Everyone is welcome."

While Kyle's family legacy lives on in Sheffield—her family gave the Old Stone Store and the land the church is built on to the town—Kyle continues to contribute so much to Monterey. In addition to organizing the potluck dinners, she is on the board of the Lake Buel District, Chair of the Council on Aging, and president of the board of directors of the *Monterey News*, as well as on the Monterey Community Center planning committee. She also organizes bridge games with members of the community two times a week.

One wonders what this community would be like without the many people like Kyle who have a long history and dedication to the town. This is what makes Monterey what it is. Some of us may come and go, but for folks to have such strong roots here helps define what Monterey is.

—Cheryl Zellman

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Seeing the Trees

The moment I think of trees, they diffuse into beings whose frequency so differs from mine, I can't see them.

They connect with each other in groves that seem celestial, yet our worlds unify.

—from *Hello, the Roses*, Mei Mei Berssenbrugge

A hundred years ago, or so, someone planted a row of four or five poplars on the eastern property line of Brookbend, just east of the village.

They grew quickly into massive and graceful sentinels. I judge the photo at the right to be from the mid-fifties based on the presence of a lofty elm in front yard. It shows the poplars already towering twenty to thirty feet above the peaked barn that stood there at the time. The largest of these was taken down a decade ago or so. Its huge stump—hollowed out, with a diameter of five feet—remains.

Until recently, the last two of the majestic poplars graced the slight knoll to the east of our garage. Late last summer, I noticed that the smaller of the trees was bereft of its usual golden triangular leaves and appeared dead. Since poplars are fast-growing but not long-lived, it didn't seem that the larger could have much life left in him, either, and it was more affordable and safer to take two down at once. As usual, in the competition among species, humans have the upper hand.

So we contacted Jon Andrus to take on the job. During the short time when it was under sentence of death, but still standing, I felt like I was observing the larger tree for the first time, and not just passing by. As I looked at its bare, torqued branches opening up as if in an embrace, or maybe supplication, I wished that I had paid more attention, spent more time to get to know it, tried to take in some of its arboreal wisdom.

The larger tree came down first. Although its stump was mostly sound, a rotten channel ran through it, and the decay was more pronounced toward the top, Jon said. He said it was only a matter of time before large branches started falling.

I tried counting the rings, wide near the center but getting so close together toward the bark that it was hard to distinguish them. But the exercise made me think about how much biomass that single tree produced each year, not to mention throughout its lifetime. Considering its circumference of almost twelve feet, and its estimated height at one hundred and ten feet, I calculated (very roughly to be sure) that in its later years, the tree had annually grown some 1300 square feet of vascular cambium, the living part of the tree just near the bark.

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

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And that's not even counting the growth in the root system—which can outstrip the above-ground growth—and the annual production of leaves, seeds, and stems. It reminded me that every tree is a kind of biological factory elegantly going about its business of creating wood, habitat, and shade, all the while regulating water, soaking up carbon and releasing oxygen, to name just a few of its myriad ecosystem functions.

I've been fascinated by trees lately. Just in the few years since I moved to Monterey, a lot of information has come to me—by chance, or serendipity, or perhaps synchronicity—about the intelligence, power, and even sentience of these creatures, as well as their critical role in mitigating climate change. When I happened to stop at Mason Library during Tree Month (October), they were showing a riveting documentary, "Call of the Forest." Last month I picked up *Forest Bathing Retreat*, because the slim but potent volume of poetry, photography, and inspiration was put together by a local poet, Hannah Fries. I recently read *Overstory*, after hearing its author interviewed on WAMC and seeing a headline that described it as "the most exciting novel you'll ever read about trees."

In this way, my stack of books about trees has grown to half a shelf, including

Janet Jensen

works by botanists, poets, novelists, herbalists, intuitives, and a German forester. They disclose recent findings that trees are more alive and sensate than we may imagine. It seems they can taste, smell, and hear, they communicate with and protect members of their families, and partake in an extensive underground network of communication.

In *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Peter Wohlleben, the forester, describes how closely spaced trees of the same species support each other in divvying up nutrients and water. Through root systems and fungi they send messages to one another and synchronize their performance so all are more successful than lone individuals would be.

I noticed that when the larger of the two poplars came down, its neighbor, just a few feet away, was completely asymmetrical, looking like one half of a larger whole. The two trees, it appeared, had been in a kind of dance, that afforded each of their canopies equal access to the sun.

Indeed, the shapes of trees, so sharply etched in winter, can seem quite expressive, especially when viewed as motion stopped in a freeze frame. This in fact is what their shapes actually reveal, given how slowly but deliberately trees move. And they actually have a pulse, it seems, but one so slow that it was heretofore undetected. Because their lives unfold at such a vastly different pace than ours, and in such different ways, their movements, and who knows what else, become invisible.

—Janet Jensen

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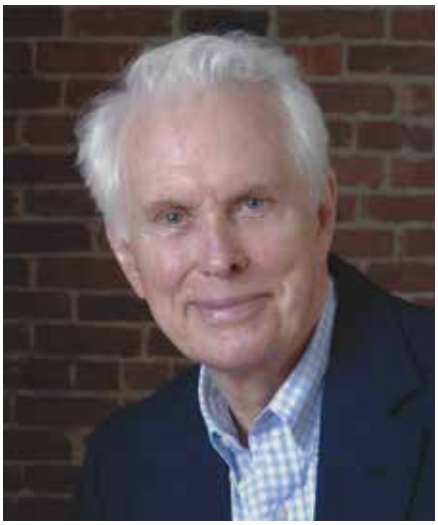
Remembrance
William H. Swan, 90

It is with great sadness that our family says goodbye to a beloved brother and uncle, Bill Swan, of Monterey. Bill passed away on this January 20 in Lee.

Bill was born on February 6,1928, in Amherst, NY. He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Irene Hall Swan, and his life partner of almost forty years, Richard D. Dunlap. Surviving are his sister, Barbara Dominski, of Encinitas, CA, niece Debra Dominski, also of Encinitas, CA, and nephew, Jeffrey Dominski, of Idaho.

Bill, like most of his generation, joined the army immediately upon graduation from high school. He served in the occupation troops in Italy at the conclusion of World War II. He was honorably discharged at the completion of his service. Bill immediately headed to California and pursued an acting career. Soon after, in 1952, he became a member of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Bill continued acting and auditioning for parts into his early 80s, encompassing sixty years of roles on stage, film, and television. He performed in four off-broadway productions, and in playhouses throughout the country too numerous to count. Bill had leading roles in over one hundred stage productions including *The Cocktail Hour, What the Butler Saw, California Site, Night of the Iguana,* and *Blithe Spirit*. He performed at the Berkshire Playhouse more than any other performer. He began performing in their summer stock productions as a very young man. Bill's beloved Berkshire Playhouse is the reason he relocated to Monterey in 1981.



Bill also stared in *Lady in the Cage*, with Olivia de Havilland, with whom he maintained a life-long friendship. He was featured in the films *Winter of Frozen Dreams, the Parallax View, Hotel,* and *The Horizontal Lieutenant*. Bill guest-starred in over two hundred television series from the 1950s through 2000, which included all of the top-rated TV shows, such as *Streets of San Fransisco, Quincy, Perry Mason, Rockford Files, Barnaby Jones, Men of Annapolis, Father Knows Best, Twelve O'Clock High, Cannon*, and dozens more. He was a continuing character in the series *All My Children, The Young and the Restless, As the World Turns,* and *Dr. Kildare*.

Bill lived the life of his dreams and he always expressed gratitude for that. He not only loved the acting, but the adventures and travels it provided, and the people it brought into his life. No one could tell a story the way he did, and he had plenty of them to tell. He will always be remembered as the ultimate gentleman, and an icon of class and style.

Winter Confession

why do i choose to live with you?
you, a bed with icy, silk sheets.
such a frigid lover,
always leaving open a window,
seducing me year after year.
you are not so subtle
with naked trees and slate skies,
enough to send any man packing
to the pleasures of a Caribbean sea:
to the warmth of mother's womb.
then like a flirting virgin,
you send down soft crystal flakes,
giving the landscape its diamond illusion,
gently pulling me in,
calling me to your breast
with a soft December whisper
knowing i will never leave you,
because i am in love.

—John Humphrey
February 1999

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Remembrance
John Heffernan, 84

John, his son John Stephen, with grandson Aidan, and their dogs Nemo and Emma.

John was born Feb. 10, 1934, in Peabody, the son of John E. Heffernan Jr. and Margaret (Mulligan) Heffernan. He graduated from Brookline High School in 1952 and from Northeastern University in 1957. He married Esther Terni June 10, 1957. Together, they had three children: John, Colleen and Tim. John served in the US Army in the Nike Missile System and as part of NATO in Verdun, France. He was employed for many years as an underwriter for Traveler's Insurance Company and later for Savings Bank Life Insurance Company.

John was a stalwart supporter of his children and positively delighted in his grandchildren. Throughout his life, he enjoyed athletic activities (from playing high school and college football and basketball to recreational bowling, softball, running, biking, cross-country skiing, and golfing) and was an avid sports fan. He had a lifelong love of music, especially jazz, bluegrass, and opera. He was a devoted crossword puzzle solver, enhanced by his great memory and fund of general knowledge. He spent many hours in retirement woodworking and building rock walls. Many are the recipients of his bread boards, tables, birdhouses, and window mirrors. John never hesitated to lend a hand to others and was much loved by all who knew him. He was on the Monterey Cultural Council, and served as the chair for two years.

Over the last two months of his illness, his family was struck by his courage and equanimity in facing this last enormous health challenge. From his fall just before Thanksgiving to the discovery of the tumor in his brain, the decision to have the surgery to remove the tumor and finally the decision to forgo treatment when left with disability and poor quality of life following the surgery, he was resolute and clear in expressing his wishes to go home. Over the course of the illness, he was touched by all the support he received from friends and family, humbly amazed and pleased by all the calls, visits, and cards. He felt loved and blessed and he was not afraid.

The family wishes to sincerely thank HospiceCare in the Berkshires for the compassionate care and support during the last stage of John's illness.

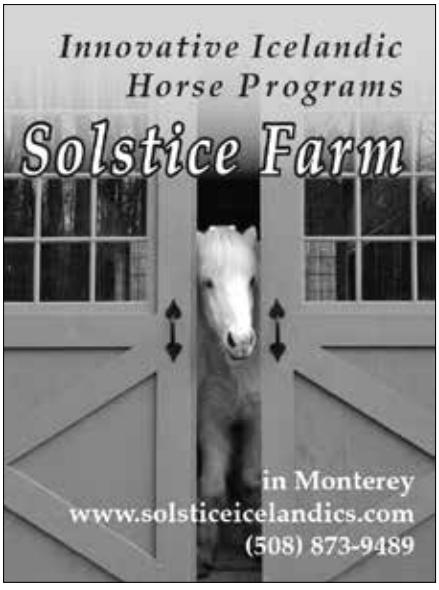
He is survived by his wife, Esther; son John and wife Dawn Heffernan; daughter Colleen and husband Mark Robinson; son Tim; grandchildren Aidan Heffernan, Gain Robinson, Sarah Robinson, and Paul Heffernan; sisters Sheila Dankese and Brenda Popeo; brother Gerald Heffernan; and his brothers- and sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by his parents, his brother Paul Heffernan and his sister Jane Heavey.

At John's request, there will be no formal services. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Monterey Library, P.O. Box 173, Monterey, MA 01245, or Solstice Farm/Beth Timlege, P.O. Box 731, Monterey, MA 01245. To send remembrances to the family, go to finnertyandstevens.com.

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net



Letters

Don Coburn Should Resign

Don Coburn asked in the last *Monterey News*, 'how am I doing?' My answer is very badly.

Back in August, the broadband committee met with the select board to summarize their findings and make a recommendation for the board to take forward.

At this meeting, Don acted in an angry, belligerent manner, posturing like a prosecuting attorney, trying to "catch them out" and going so far as to impugn the integrity of the committee members.

Afterwards, I told him I hoped he would not need to ask anyone in town to volunteer their efforts, given his behavior, to which he replied that he could understand why I said that. A kind of acknowledgment, I suppose, that he had not handled it well. After an initial cursory apology to those involved, he sent a lengthy email on which I was copied.

The following is from his email, unedited:

"There was no justification and there is no excuse for the manner in which I spoke. I was wrong, dead wrong. I was speaking to people I like and whose abilities I respect, and whose hard work in the face of an incredibly daunting problem, I appreciate—and I just lost control of my mouth. Since Wednesday, I have hardly thought about anything other than the pain I inflicted on good people without any justification, and I don't expect those thoughts to pass soon. I am truly sorry.

"I would like to meet with each of you and apologize in person, or to meet with you as a group, but that is up to each of you. I can't change the past, but I can pledge a better future. And if I cannot keep that pledge, you have my assurance that a second strike would lead me to resign immediately."

He has NOT kept that pledge to behave better or resign. He has continued with belligerent behavior in meetings and his interactions with elected and appointed officials, employees, and residents have frequently been contentious and disrespectful.

It is time for him to resign.

—Pam Johnson

Bidwell House Museum

History Talk Replay, Feb. 10

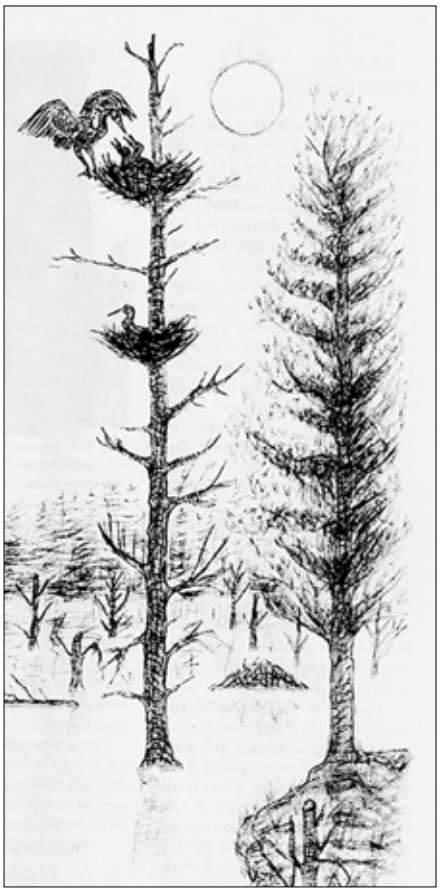
The Bidwell House Museum has enjoyed presenting the monthly off-season program, History Talk Replay, screening past lectures from the Museum's summer history talks. On Sunday, February 10, at 1 p.m., head to the Monterey Community Center for the last screening in the series, a 2013 talk by UMass Professor of Anthropology, Eric Johnson, titled "The Garden in the Woods: Archaeology at Kampoosa Bog in Stockbridge." In this lecture Eric talks about a four thousand-year-old settlement and what we know about early human life in the Berkshires. The video lasts around eighty minutes, and coffee and refreshments will be served. You can also find all of the details on the museum website, bidwellhousemuseum.org. In March the museum is planning a maple syrup event at the museum— more details about this will be found on the museum website by late February.

In December the museum's annual appeal mailing went out to all members and donors. If you are interested in making a donation, please call the museum or head to the museum's website, bidwellhousemuseum.org.

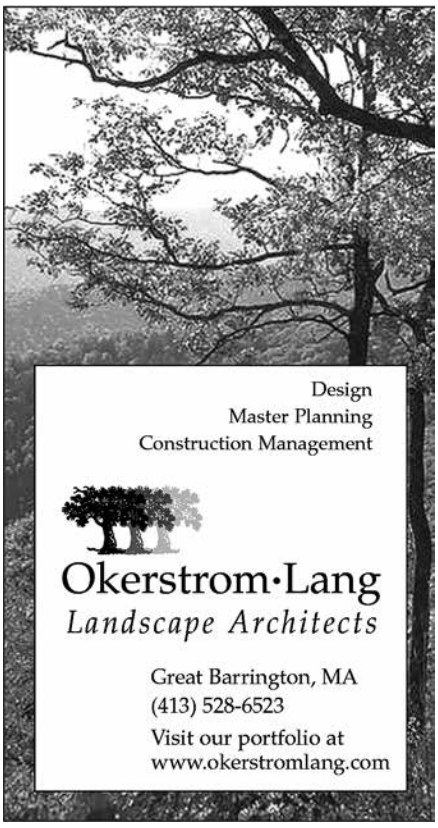
Every dollar donated supports the preservation of the historic 1760s homestead, 192-acre grounds, and history education programs. Don't forget the grounds of the Bidwell House Museum are open all year. Hike the trails, take a leisurely walk, or go cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing on a snowy afternoon.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

Dreaming of kayaking —Bonsai Cox



A great blue heron rookery over a beaver pond, by George Emmons from August, 1999.



Deep Winter on Hupi Road

For W.A.

These trees are black harp strings
against the snow
and the luminous lingering of wet-beech leaves
trembles such graceful whispers
        in the gathering dark

these dry yet golden leaves are the last
to remember us walking ever together
    never to part

this soft drip of melting drops
these iced pine boughs bending
    all a hushed requiem for you

this longing
        is breaking my heart.

—A.O. Howell
February 1999

Going Free

When I come to the end
Of this entertaining interim,
Will I stand for judgment
("Sorry, Boss!")
Or will I go free,
Dissolve into a trillion
Consciousnesses, each
Independent of time and space,
Understanding everything
Hidden to us here and now,
Uniting with the sweet influences
Of the Pleiades, rejoicing in the
Evolution of Cosmic dust,
The crumbling of mountains,
The triumphant coming and going
Of every single blade of grass?

If that is what's to come
What's so different from
Imagining it all, now?

—David McAllester
April 1999

Prayer to the Deep

(for J. H.)

cold, I pass the crescent moon
        and think of you in your bed
        not in your body, not in your head
how the road can skew so soon

how fickle flies the winter wind—
        how right we were to sing and dance
        so close, so young, such romance
oblivous to the dance's end

Johnny Boy, the stars persist
        for now at least, but alas:
        even dust arose from nothingness
(but I knew you when…I insist!)

the crescent grows a silvery coin
        and wanes again to poverty
        these folded hands, though dirty
entreat the dance
                and you
                    rejoin.

—R. Zukowski
March 1999

Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years— the "Monterey News" from 1999

Once again, an opportunity for looking back at events from twenty years ago, drawn from the 1999 Monterey News *issues. Back issues are available by request for use in the library.* *—Stephen Moore, Editor*

Town News

School District Assessments

When 1998 ended there were still many open questions about resolving a basic difficulty between the five towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

Through the protracted negotiations during 1998 between the five towns, mediated by David Burbank, the towns came to an agreement that assessments would be based "loosely" on the October 1997 enrollment figures, and that there was an "agreed-upon statement of facts" which would be used by the courts should the five towns not all agree at their town meetings. It was reported in the June issue that Monterey did vote for the agreement, but there was no reporting as to what the other towns decided.

Transfer Station

Similar to the meetinghouse restoration, there was a recognized need to revamp the current transfer station. The solid waste commission, led by Joyce Sheffey, identified all the needs, and they hired architect David Bixby, from Clark and Green in Great Barrington, to draw up the plans. By the end of the year the project was put out to bid. (Will we be looking to revamp the current "new" transfer station in another twenty years?)

Town Hall Renovations

The town hall renovation project moved forward during much of the year in the design and grant application stage. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development had rejected one grant request, but provided guidelines for reapplying. The town did, and in October was awarded $456,000, largely for accessibility improvements, including the elevator to the lower floor.

Monterey Roads

As a result of two fatal accidents at the junction of Routes 57 and 23, highway foreman Don Amstead had recommended the installation of some speed bumps on Route 57 south of the intersection. They were installed and made a difference as people approached the intersection.

During the fall of 1999, Tyringham Road from Main Road up to the town beach area was the focus of the town crew's energy. Work was done to improve drainage, and the road got a new blacktop surface.

Budget

The town budget approved at the annual town meeting in May was set at $1,708,795. In November the tax rate for the year was set at $9.32/$1000. While this is much higher than our current rate, that is largely due to the change and growth in property values.

Other News Around Town

Monterey Meetinghouse

The meetinghouse in the village, the United Church of Christ, had been the subject of considerable discussion and planning about much-needed repairs. The bell tower was in such poor shape that the risk of ringing the bell was judged to be too high, there was a need for an accessible entrance, the front steps needed to be rebuilt, and the window on the west side, nearest the road, needed to be replaced.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission had awarded a $100,000 matching grant for exterior work only. With that money the front steps were rebuilt by Annecharico Construction, the belfry was restored by Kurt Hoelter and GFI Builders, with architect David Bixby doing the design and site management of the project. The deadline of May 31, as a condition of the grant, was mostly met. (Time passed, and just a few years ago the church once again needed work, including a full repainting of the exterior.)

As a historical note, if anyone would like to read the interesting history of the church bell, go to the library and take a look at the July 1999 issue on pages 4 and 5.

Kurt Hoelter and company prepare to install a new sash on the west side of the church. *— Photo by Wayne Dunlop*

Veteran's Park

Veteran's Park, at the corner of Blue Hill Road and Route 23, was nearly completed. It was reported in December that they had raised $20,888, in addition to the generous donations of labor, equipment, and material by local businesses, with a bit more than a thousand dollars still on hand. What remained was to place three benches in appropriate locations and some grading and final landscaping.

In addition, there was a desire to install a low-voltage solar power lighting system to shine on the flag at night. This would permit the flag to remain up overnight, and relieve John Ryder, who was faithfully crossing from his house every morning and every evening to raise and lower the flag. The group was issuing an appeal for another thousand dollars to be able to install the lighting.

Glynis Oliver

Land and Water

The Monterey Land Trust was hard at work organizing volunteers for building the trails on the Mt. Hunger property.

Three thousand milfoil weevils were received in August. A survey of the lake identified a place near Bullhead Rock where "Eurasian milfoil was growing luxuriantly without evidence of weevil control," so the weevils were released.

The Berkshire Fish Hatchery reopened with a ceremony in mid-October. A collaboration agreement between US Fish and Wildlife and the Western Massachusetts Center for Sustainable Aquaculture paved the way for the reopening. The hatchery had been closed since 1994 due to budget cuts.

Remember Y2K?

There were a number of reports during the year of preparations underway to protect against the possibility that computer dating systems, changing from the year designated "99" might return us back to the beginning of the 1900s (or 1800s, or further back). There were all kinds of scary scenarios that might result, but the economy as a whole was paying attention and organizing to stave off the danger. This included the town working to avoid problems. The American Red Cross published a booklet of tips for dealing with the possible disruptions. Various media were warning people not to stay up until just past midnight and then try to check the year for fear that such a surge of requests would overwhelm the systems.

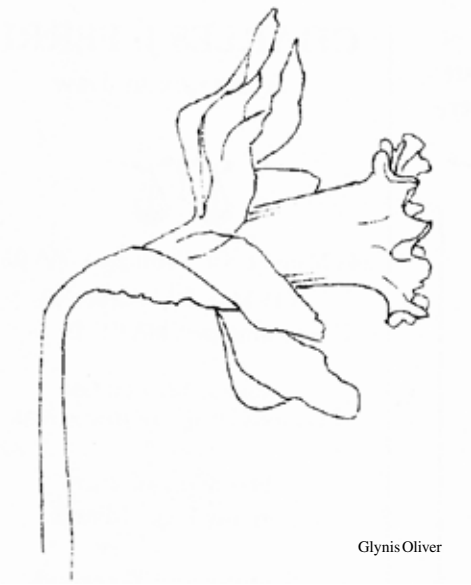
People News

Bob Thieriot

Bob Thieriot passed away on December 31, 1996 and left a huge hole in the townspeople. He was an outsized character in an outsized body, who was very generous in some significant civic ways. His daughter Janet had died at age seventeen from an aggressive cancer, and Bob had filed a malpractice suit as a result. Berkshire Regional School District still benefits today from the $1 million award from that suit through funds granted to school-based projects in Janet's Fund. Bob also used his resources to help conserve thousands of acres in Berkshire County. And, as Peter Murkett recounted in his Swing Low essay (see page 22), Bob did not go down easily.

John Humphrey

John was involved in a terrible head-on collision in early February down in Maryland when a car, at high speed, crossed the median and flipped over on top of John's car. He spent three weeks in a coma, and it wasn't until September that he was welcomed back to Monterey, still with crutches.



Glynis Oliver

I Love Monterey Days
Schedule of Events

** Saturday July 17 **

Basketball Tournament
Greene Park
10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Call Jay Amidon, 269-4430 to register.

Library Book Sale
Library Lawn
10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Brewer Pond Nature Trail Hike
Brewer Pond
11 a.m.–12 noon
Led by Bonner McAllester & Bob Rausch

The Homestead Garden
Bidwell House
2–3:30 p.m.
A hands-on program demonstrating historic gardening techniques. Discussion will pursue the history of the homestead garden and its effect on the culture at large. The evolution of tools will be another primary focus. A variety of tools will be used by participants.
(sponsored by the Mass. Foundation for the Humanities)

The Parade
Center of Town
3:30 p.m.
Come celebrate the ringing of the bell. Come with bells on your fingers and bells on your toes. Design a float. Wear old "I Love Monterey Day" T-shirts.
Plan to follow the parade to the evening's festivities at the Firehall
Contact Ellen Pearson at 528-1988.

The Food
Fire Hall Pavilion
4-7 p.m.
Roadside Store comes to town to cook BBQ, serving fresh foods and fun.

The Music
Fire Hall Gazebo
4–5:30 p.m.
Open mike—local musicians are welcome to play, to dance to ring your chimes.
For more information call Karl Finger at 528-2963.

Theatre Performance
Fire Hall Gazebo
5:30–6:30 p.m.
The Gould Farm Players will perform a series of one-act comedies while the community dines

The Silent Auction
Fire Hall Pavilion
4:30–7 p.m.
Come bid on goods and services from local businesses, support the Town, and contribute to the success of future " I Love Monterey Days"!
For information call Muriel Lazzarini.

The Dance
Fire Hall Pavilion
7–9 p.m.
Dance the night away with friends and neighbors. Come see what varied and wonderful music and dance Karl Finger has in store for us.

Will You, Won't You, Will You, Won't You, Won't You Be in Our Parade?

What will you be in the parade on I Love Monterey Day? Belligerent? A bellows, a bellyache, a belly dancer, a belly flop, a belly full? Bella Lugosi? Belles lettres? Whatever you do, don't Belate!
Line up at the Sandisfield Road/ Rte. 23 intersection by 3:15 p.m. on July 17. Call Ellen Pearson for registration and details at 528-1988.

** Sunday July 18 **

The Kids Fun Run
Center of Town
9 a.m.
Come run for fun.
Contact members of the Parks Department for more information.

The Annual Knox Trail Run
The Old Fire Hall
9:30 a.m.
Come and run this popular race, or just encourage the runners along the route.
For more information talk to the Parks Department

I Love Monterey

The townspeople decided, for reasons unreported, to have a summertime celebration, which they called "I Love Monterey Day." (This was on the heels of the sesquecentennial celebration in 1997.) Apparently it was a great day. Look at the day's schedule. Plenty of folks must have some specific memories from the day. Send them on to the *News*. Why not celebrate a celebration?

Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years– the "Monterey News" from 1999

People Serving the Town

Town Officials

- Peter Brown
- Fred Chapman
- Muriel Lazzarini
- Town Clerk—Barbara Swann
- Town Moderator—Mark Makuc
- Fire Chief—Ray Tryon
- Highway Foreman—Don Amstead
- Police Chief—Gareth Backhaus
- Monterey Church Pastor—Keith Snow
- State Representative—Christopher Hodgkins
- State Senator—Andrea Nuciforo, Jr.

At the Monterey News

Monterey News Staff

- Maggie Leonard, Peter Murkett—editors
- Will Marsh—Begins 15 years as editor
- Mari Makuc Enoch—treasurer
- Barbara Tryon—business manager
- Ian Jenkins & Pat Amstead—production

Regular Essayists

- Amy Goldfarb—Town report
- Jane Black—Monterey Land Trust
- Anita Carroll-Weldon—Bidwell House
- George Emmons—nature reflections
- Ann Higgins—personal notes
- Representative Christopher Hodgkins—"Rep Rap"
- Bonner McAllester—natural history and wildlife report
- David McAllester—wildlife report
- Mary Kate Jordan—Monterey Piecemakers, Astrology
- Heidi Haverkamp—Gould Farm
- Deborah Mielke—school news
- Claudette Callahan—Family Network, Children's Health
- Karen Shreefter—Blue Hill Road development
- Cynthia Weber—Historical Society
- Ellen Pearson—Monterey folks
- Peter Murkett—essays
- Senator Andrea Nuciforo, Jr. —"Senator Says"
- Jana Shepark, Judy Bach, Pat Edelstein—Lake Garfield Association
- Joyce Sheffey—Monterey Preservation Land Trust, solid waste committee
- Pastor Keith Snow—Monterey church news
- Many other folks in town contributed as reporters and letter writers.

Poetry

- Lesley Givet
- Nick Hardcastle
- A. O. Howell
- John B. Humphrey
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Eleanor Kimberly
- David McAllester

Donald Amstead, Sr., sent in his own hand-lettered rendition of a saying he saw on a board at a tag sale near his home in Florida.

- M. E. Mishcon
- Louise Henry
- April Grace Thomas
- Robert Rose
- Peter Shepley
- Simon Spagnoletti
- Richard Zubrowski
- Wayne Dunlop
- Mark Mendel
- Jim Michelman

Artwork

- Glynis Oliver
- Joe Baker
- Peter Murkett
- Susan Sellew
- Scott Duhon
- George Emmons
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Caitlin Lilly
- Bonner McAllester
- Sarah Olds

A view of Brookbend and the library from atop the belltower during its reconstruction. —Photo by Wayne Dunlop

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References and portfolios available upon request.
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Obituaries in 1999

- Walter Andersen, 86 (May, p.18)
- Mary Wallace, 88 (February, p. 22)
- Susan Moody White, 96 (February, p. 22)
- Bill Crofut, 65 (March, p. 22)
- Greta Chernoff, 67 (April, p. 20)
- Arthur Somers, 79 (July, p. 18)
- Sally Fijux, 89 (July, p.19)
- Evelyn Stafford, 81 (August, p. 20)
- Wells Sellew, 78 (August, p. 22)
- Kay Sellew, 83 (October, p. 17)
- Frederick Leuchs, 73 (November, p. 17)
- Gerald O. Field, 71 (December, p. 17)

Lilac Time

Time never is so forceful,
so apparent a swine
As during the lilacs.

—Peter Shepley
May, 1999

Fiona Lacey contemplates the firewood at Gould Farm. *—Photo by Wayne Dunlop*

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DENNIS@DOWNINGLANE.COM

COURTNEY S. LANE
COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM

Swing Low

Bob Theriot Laid to Rest

About twenty years ago I sat in a pew toward the front of the Monterey church at Tony Reed's funeral. He had been a friend and fellow member of the Monterey Fire Company, which formed an honor guard on the steps of the church. My near neighbor Wayne Dunlop was there, too, and sometime later I mentioned to him my noticing Tony's wooden casket during the service. It was typical, made of laminated number two pine molded into oversized curves, stained dark and highly polished, with brass hardware. Not the way we would do it, I said to Wayne. He agreed. In those days we often worked together on projects around our own places—carpentry, plastering, plumbing, electrical work, cutting trees, slaughtering pigs. We did everything (and better, mind you). So we conjured a coffin made of wide pine boards, dovetailed comers, no finish. I thought we could put a mild bend into the sides, giving our box the traditional coffin shape with a special touch. We went right ahead, built a fire under a bathtub outdoors, immersed the ends of two freshly sawed pine boards for a half hour in boiling water, then clamped them to a form and stashed it away, figuring the bend would set as the boards dried over time. A year or more later, when Wayne's grandfather passed away at age 101, we worked late into the night to dovetail these boards into our first coffin, for him.

A corollary of that youthful, can-do spirit is that anything done well can become a business. Surely there was a solid market for this plain pine coffin (presto! a company name: Plain Pine), an honest box to satisfy the universal longing for ceremonial simplicity in materialistic times. I could sell hundreds!

Well, I have made about half a dozen caskets since Tony Reed, at his funeral, inspired Wayne and me to build that coffin for his grandfather. (Note that a casket is by definition a rectangular burial box, whereas a coffin has the elongated, asymmetrical hexagonal shape of the boxes borne dramatically up boot hill in old westerns.) My design has evolved away from bent sides (too much work), and the casket I now make is very plain indeed: four pine boards dovetailed together, with a molded edge cut into the lid and a mitered molding applied around the bottom. There is a knuckle rail along the casket sides above thick rope handles. The plywood bottom is keyed and securely glued into the pine sides, absolute proof against failure. (What funereal horror could be greater than the bottom falling out?) Wrought iron nails (or wooden pins, for Orthodox Jewish ceremonies) are supplied to fasten the hand-planed pine lid. No finish. The design is simple but satisfying; there is nothing I would change. I may carve a person's initials in the lid, but that's as fancy as it gets.

On the business side, my "cabinet quality" caskets are mentioned in a national publication on alternative funerals, also in a website on the subject. I receive a steady trickle of inquiries, but sales are rare. In short, don't look for Plain Pine to go public. I remain a furniture maker; my trade in caskets is minimal and irregular, and although the boxes are not cheap, overall return is modest.

In those same can-do days when Wayne and I built that first coffin, I was also friendly with Bob Thieriot, another neighbor. We shared several interests: woodworking and antique tools, the old ways, land preservation, issues of local government. For a winter or two we were hockey teammates at the Monterey rink. I had seen less of Bob in recent years. Then I learned that he had suffered a stroke, and had a brain tumor. One Sunday morning last fall at Greene Park, Bob was delivered to the softball field in his wheelchair to watch the game in which he had been a regular player. I came over from the basketball court to greet him, squeeze his hand and say hi. There were no other words for it, how severe illness highlights passing time, changes in the old neighborhood. His speech was skewed, his eyes were sad and piercing as ever.

It was Wayne Dunlop who called me at my shop on the last day of the year, when it was clear that Bob's death was imminent. He was very close to Bob at the end of his life, caring for him around the clock. The family was considering funeral arrangements, and Wayne wanted to know if there was some way we could come up with a casket on short notice.

Nion Robert Thieriot died on the last day of 1998. Wayne, and then Bob's older brother Peter Thieriot, came to my shop on New Year's Day. Bob was six foot eight inches tall—the same height as Phil Jackson, two inches taller than Michael Jordan. He wouldn't fit in a standard sized casket, and after some discussion we decided that Wayne would work with me to build a long casket using pine boards Bob had sawed from trees felled on Tall Pine Farm. Peter checked with people at the funeral home, who assured him that

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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the vault supplied would fit the extra-long casket, and we went to work.

Bob had a reverence for trees and woodworking alike. Land conservation was his abiding passion, and although trees represented much more to him than raw material for woodworking, he loved using the antique tools he collected. I met with him a few times years ago in a tiny outbuilding on his place fitted out with shelves and a workbench, crammed with tools. I showed him what I knew about laying out and cutting dovetails with chisel and backsaw, tried to coach him beyond his low opinion of his own work. In those days we both thrilled to the woodworking mastery of the Shakers, for example. Work as if you would live forever and die tomorrow, counseled Mother Ann Lee. Today, decades of extracting a livelihood from shop work have, for me, worn that thrill down to a hard kernel of plain respect. I hardly differentiate between occupations any more—woodworker, lawyer, storekeeper, farmer, cook—what's the difference? A little startup passion followed by years of work, a good job done over and over, a living earned, and the romance yields to something denser, more polished, durable, down-to-earth. Not so for Bob. I had the sense that he always regarded woodwork as more of a calling than an occupation, that every snug joint and hand-planed surface always kept every penny of its absolute value. His convictions were unshakable. If woodworking was a shared interest, it was also a territory in which our paths diverged.

In the late morning on New Year's Day, Wayne and I drove over to Tall Pine Farm, where we went to the main barn. Bob's place on Wellman Road presented every visitor with a choice of responses. One could relax taking in the evident chaos, the innumerable projects underway but perpetually incomplete, and be relieved that it was his problem, not one's own; or one could get into a good Yankee snit about what a mess it always was, long term and short, from the unfinished buildings to the cars parked overnight on the road with their doors standing open. Would this man ever clean up his act? Having a clear purpose and limited time helped steer us through the furniture, farm implements, tools, hay, lumber, vehicles, and stuff packed into the bam. We picked our way into the loft and selected three or four wide pine boards from as many stacks of lumber, and took them back to my shop. Chuck Wyman agreed to run the rough-sawn boards through his planer for us, and we made the trip to his mill in Hartsville. We located some plywood for the casket bottom. Peter Thieriot had wanted us to use Tall Pine lumber exclusively (Bob hated plywood), but after a quick briefing on relative strength and the merits of an overbuilt casket bottom, he agreed to plywood where it counted. After all, it would not be seen—at least not by the living. Bob would object, but hey.

Over the afternoon, we routed dovetail pins on the casket sides, and glued them to the plywood bottom, then shaped the knuckle rails. I used my old wooden-bodied foreplane on the surface of the lid, and routed its molded edge. Bob would have loved the hand planing, scorned the router. He was looking over our shoulders all day, but it was not an unpleasant presence, however brusque and critical. We were doing the job, and well at that. I ruined my first attempt at cutting tails for the joint on one of the short ends, but there was just enough planed lumber for a second try, which fit perfectly. See? I said to Bob.

Early on Saturday we glued up the dovetail joint, and the basic box was complete. It took the rest of the day to cut and fit a molding around the bottom, fasten the knuckle rail, and knot ropes into the sides. Peter stopped by in the afternoon to check on our progress, and agreed that I should carve NRT into the lid. We lightly sanded the joints and surfaces clean, and fitted the lid, drilling holes for the wrought iron nails. I drove the casket to Finnerty and Stevens early Saturday evening.

I was among the last to arrive at the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington on the first Monday in 1999, which was sunny and cold, with a brisk northwest wind. The place was full. Speaking from the altar, family and friends recounted the drama of Bob's life, evoking a personality riddled with contradiction. He was orphaned by shipwreck as a boy, saw his farm in California consumed by wildfire, his marriage fall apart after moving to Monterey, his teenaged daughter Janet die of cancer, and had his own life cut short by untimely illness. He used his inherited fortune to purchase thousands of acres of Berkshire land for preservation, brought a successful civil action against the doctors who treated Janet's cancer, and used the proceeds to establish a $1 million endowment to benefit the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. He swung a hammer with

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Habitat forHumanity, and bicycled every year on Cape Cod to help raise funds for cancer research. He moved, inspired, and exasperated many people. Alice Richmond, an attorney in Boston who worked for nine years with Bob on the malpractice lawsuit, described him as "smart, funny, abrupt, contentious, infuriating, whiny, and critical—sometimes all at the same time." To his brother Peter he was an "oxymoron [who was] generous with the unfortunate, stingy with his own; a whiz with numbers and a truant in financial matters." Peter closed the service, saying "Keep the spirit. A big tree that falls opens up space and light for the younger trees."

Around noon, a long line of cars pulled slowly into Corashire Cemetery. A large group gathered at the gravesite to hear the final words, which turned out to be prelude to one last stubborn episode. Prayers were intoned, holy water and ashes were cast, and mourners tossed hemlock boughs onto the casket. It was lowered no more than a foot before it was obvious that the vault was too small. Kirk Jones, a friend who had helped out at Tall Pine Farm in the final weeks, was standing near me. "Don't make it easy, Bob," he called out softly. Attendants from the funeral home cranked the casket back up, and after a hasty, awkward discussion with Wayne and me and Eric Pedersen, who was dressed for work (applause from Bob), with his van full of tools parked nearby, we decided to cut the moldings off the ends to shorten the casket's overall length. We set it sideways across the open grave. Wayne and I (dressed for a funeral) set to work with chisel and plane, scattering shavings. In the wind coming across the' Webb's open field my nose ran and my hands froze. Soon the moldings were flush at the foot end of the box, and Wayne started on the head end, but the attendants, anxious to get on with it, told him we had removed plenty and it would certainly fit now. Mourners regrouped for the final moment again, and the casket was lowered a second time, but no farther than the first. Still too long. Up again, and across the grave, the rails our makeshift workbench. As some began to drift away, heading for Tall Pine Farm, where they could come in out of the cold to a fine spread of food and drink, we chiseled and planed the moldings on the head end flush with the box. The third time, as I tossed a few farewell wood chips onto the casket, it started down into the molded plastic liner of the concrete vault, but the liner tapered toward its bottom, and the box got stuck partway in. With a nod from Peter Thieriot, Wayne jumped onto the casket to see if he could force it into the grave, but no. The attendants started to winch it up a third time, but the crank handle was small, not designed for extra heavy lifting. The straps got very taut, but the box would not rise. Wayne jumped down again, and with a sharp kick on the tight straps jarred the casket loose.

By now, only immediate family and three or four of us builder types remained, along with some worried people from the funeral home, and the backhoe operator who was waiting to backfill the grave he had dug. Consultation over possible solutions: How long would it take to get a larger vault, if that was even possible? Should they take the casket back to the funeral home? How big was the vault anyway? No one had measured! Eric got a tape from his van and we determined that another three-quarters of an inch off the length of the box on its lower half, and it would go. Wayne was intent on completing the job. He suggested we cut kerfs in both end-boards, then chisel and plane across the lower surface of each. That way we could shorten the box just enough without violating its integrity. It was agreed. Eric produced a fine antique slick (a type of extra-large chisel—cheers from Bob) and a sharp Japanese pull-saw. We cut and pared and planed, tapering the box to fit the vault, then measured our work. On the fourth try, the casket was lowered all the way down.

Bob Thieriot was a big man and a large presence, not often easy right to the end. It was good, hard work laying him to rest. Peace, neighbor.

—Peter Murkett

Reprinted from February 1999 Monterey News

January 2019 Contributors

Pat & Arthur Carry
Kathy & Steven Frank
Glenn Heller
Stephen Singer
Lauren Paul
Alyssa Gelbard LePack
Christine & Ron Goldfinger
Anonymous cash donation

Note: The Monterey News *does not publish anonymous content.*

Glynis Oliver

Words Like Invasive, Hate

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Don't let anyone pull you so low as to hate them," or words like that. I have remembered this idea but when I went to *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* looking for accuracy and detail on "hate" quotes, I found very many thoughts on the subject, well over a hundred. I was interested in hate because I don't like it when people hate. I particularly don't like it when I do.

Probably some folks do it easily and often, experiencing some solidarity with others as in "I hate mosquitoes, we hate mosquitoes!" This confidence, the sense of belonging to a strong group of fellow mosquito haters, may be a source of individual strength. We all can use a dose of that, though maybe we don't really need it when we meet up with one very small flying insect. This we could stand up to all by our large intelligent selves.

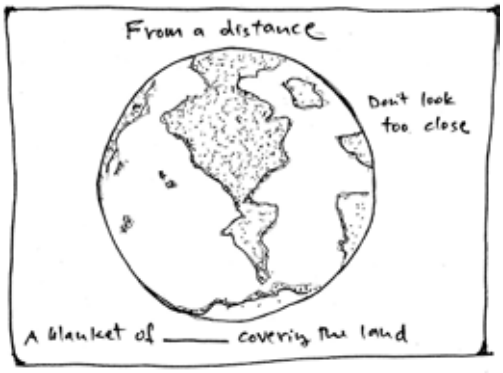
If we get out in the late afternoon with the watering can on a close day in July or August, and meet that mosquito and all its kin, a good dose of hate might serve. It might band together with victim-hood and enable a rebellion, a battle, or maybe just a dash for the house. Even this, though at first glance resembling retreat or defeat, is a sensible response to the situation. Let's call it success.

There is many a living thing we can love when it is our pet, or when a sighting or an encounter is a rare treat. What happens to us when the plant or creature gets in our way, gets numerous? I read recently of hundreds of thousands of grey squirrels migrating in a vast blanket all at once. What an experience to see such a phenomenon. How different from watching the one or two that leap to our birdfeeder, or dash away to the nearest tree with the old dog happily in pursuit.

We had visitors from an urban setting who were charmed by the squirrels in our feeder. This was refreshing, for all of us. One or two squirrels at a time—you can focus on the colors of the plushy coat, the sparkly eyes, the marvelous tail and sweet little paws rather like our own. Squirrels are so common and numerous here that we don't see them individually the way our visitors did. We say to ourselves, "Oh, there is another squirrel," making it one of a group. The group is not hundreds of thousands in a blanket across the land, but it is beyond individuals. It is perilously close to "pests." "Oh brother, there is another_____."

I have been reading *Mozart's Starling*, by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, (Little Brown and Co., 2017). The author is an ornithologist, a philosopher, a naturalist. She takes starling-hate head-on, confessing her feelings for starlings as an invasive species. She enumerates the damage done by the birds in their sheer numbers, both in economic terms (agriculture) and ecologically. Starlings are strong. The jury is in on them for crimes against "native" species.

Any one who has thought for two minutes about the term "invasive," knows that to hate species or individuals with this label is to come mighty close to home and self. Now I am going back to MLK Jr. and the idea of being "pulled so low."



My dad, famous in our family for his advices, warned of "poisoning the air around you." If I came home fuming over something that I was hating, he would point out that the only harm I was doing anyone was to the person closest to the invective emanating from my own mouth, that is, me. Dad also told us to "emphasize the good things."

To get back to the labels, the groups and the individuals, we can accompany Lyanda Lynn Haupt, hater of starlings, to her long and loving relationship with Carmen, a pet starling. Or we can just go sit outside and pay good attention to any living thing out there. We can even stay in the house and look carefully at the grand old dog, or the glorious clivia plant in its pot, with those curving leaves in shades of green we know to be chlorophyll, the miracle key to food production for nearly all of us on this sunny planet.

To quote another teacher from earlier times, Abe Lincoln is said to have said, "I defeat my enemies by making them my friends." I wonder if he made any distinction between his enemies as individuals, or as a big group that might blanket the land, like all those squirrels, or great flocks of starlings.

For this philosophical excursion to be useful to me will require I do more than identify an individual as a member of a group or a species. We are urged by Donald Kroodsma in his *Backyard Birdsong Guide* (Cornell, 2008) not just to identify them, but to "identify with" them.

There it is, and hate will not survive it.

—Bonner McAllester

Dulled Elegy

Everything survives,
furniture and lives,
in a heap that grows
somewhere above the brim…
those epic boyhood snows.

My brother's gaze was dim
and strangers shrank from him
as if he were a bear.
I loved him like a brother,
and now he isn't here.

Though dumbstruck like the other
mourners (just our mother
and two sad friends of his)
I hear my brother swear,
"It's snowing!" And it is.

—Don Barkin

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The Mythical Mute Swan

The Mute Swan that adorns our shorelines, with its large snowy-white silhouette, gracefully gliding on the open waters along the icy edges of our waterfronts, is easily identified and makes a lasting impression. It bears the nomenclature of Mute, as it is much less vocal than the bugle of its west coast cousin, the Trumpeter Swan, or the clamorous European Whooping Swan. The Mute Swan also looks quite different, with a pronounced bright orange bill, bordered by an obtuse black knob on the top of the beak. As illustrated, the prominent knob is larger in males and visibly pumps up even larger, during the breeding season.

The Mute Swan is classified as *Cygnus olor*, and is not native to this continent. It was first imported from Eurasia to Elizabethan England for food, and like the Roe Deer, was registered as property of the crown, thus protecting it as royal game. Today it seems to still bear regent-sounding British titles, such as cobb for males, pens for females, cygnets for young, bevy for flocks, and wedges for flights. It was not introduced to this continent until late in the nineteenth century. The purpose was primarily to decorate public waters of ponds, lakes, waterside resorts, and zoos, especially to give them the aura of old world ambiance.

Shakespeare himself frequently featured this bird and gave it the title of "the sweet swan of Avon." He remarked that although it was mute, it sang its swan song when ready to die. In Act 5 of *Othello*, Emilia was remorseful, remarking, "I will play the swan and die in music." In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare personified their romantic love to be as pristine and symbolic as that of a swan.

In 1843, Hans Christian Anderson wrote his immortal folklore of the *Ugly Duckling*. It is about a cygnet that hatches out from a duck nest. It is soon tormented as ugly by ducklings until developing into a graceful and beautiful creature.

Now, however, in modern times, our view of this pristine swan has regressed back into an ugly creature, seen as being ornery and aggressive, and is classified as invasive. From fossils dating back six hundred years, the swan, like other birds, has evolved in conformance to Darwin's theory of evolution and survival, to aggressively protect its nesting site and habitat territory. In feeding to flourish, it can tip up and reach down with its long neck further than other waterfowl. It then can eat up to eight pounds a day of submerged vegetation faster than it can be regrown. It is locally known to become momentarily aggressive towards dogs and humans by hissing and threatening powerful wingbeat jabs that can be frightening and damaging.

I am sharing this article with you having been inspired at our Christmas gathering of our small family group of three generations at our Little Bay shoreline residence on Sconticut Neck. We looked out a picture window to be surprised at a pair of Mute Swans gracefully swimming by. This sudden appearance, to devoted birdwatchers, almost seemed to portend a blessing upon the occasion. Coming to mind was the Christmas carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," where "my true love gave to me seven swans-a-swimming." It seemed perhaps to be a metaphysical blessing, at this place, and on this particular day.

—George B. Emmons

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Wild-eyed Radicals

America got a taste of a "wild-eyed radical" in the person of Bernie Sanders during the 2016 Democratic presidential primary race. However "outlandish" his ideas and proposals regarding health care, higher education, corporate regulation, the environment, and taxation might have seemed, he attracted a very substantial following and might well have been nominated had his path not been obstructed by the Democratic Party leadership. Ordinarily, "socialists" like Bernie don't receive much air time from the mainstream media, and as a result, the public, while it is exposed to liberal viewpoints, has little sense of what other far-left radical spokespersons have to say about the past and about contemporary America. Let us, therefore, present some portion of their analysis of our society and consider how their views differ from standard narratives.

Radicals believe that conventional accounts of American history (as is the case with most all other nations) are sugar-coated and gloss over or omit many of the unsavory episodes of our past. They are especially mindful of patterns of exploitation, subordination, and violence, along with the exercise of power and control over vulnerable populations, especially women, Native Americans, and non-white people, ethnic and religious minorities, as well as the poor and the working classes. Radicals consider themselves as the champions of society's underdogs.

Radicals declare that despite the nation's unprecedented commitment to the equality of all its people, reality has fallen far short of such declarations. Significant disparities in resources, income, influence, and standing have persisted throughout our past, while those in power never have had to relinquish their positions of privilege or their elevated status. Radicals view America as divided into "victims" and "victors."

Radicals insist that violence has been and is pervasive in our society. They pronounce it genocide when referring to the devastation and death visited upon Native Americans from the beginning. The enslavement of millions of Africans constantly involved violence from the time they were captured in Africa through their endless labors in the rice, tobacco, sugar, and cotton fields of the US. Violent reprisals against striking workers were not uncommon in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Mob violence against Catholics and the Chinese once occurred regularly.

Radicals point to the ongoing love affair with guns and firearms as representing a dark and disturbing corner of the American psyche.

Radicals focus on the plight of African Americans as the most glaring betrayal of the American promise of equality. After emancipation, the attempt at radical reconstruction by northern Republicans—an effort to support and elevate the freedmen in southern society—fizzled in the face of fierce southern resentment (by the KKK and other vigilante groups). In time, Jim Crow segregation, either by law or custom, spread throughout the US. That, plus racial prejudice, has meant that the advancement of African-Americans has become a long and painful process. ln view of this, radicals would likely favor a program of reparations to compensate blacks for their suffering and exploitation.

Radicals rejoice when ordinary people organize effectively and exert pressure to challenge the status quo and to improve their lives. They applaud the efforts of women to remove the impositions of a patriarchal society and assume their rightful and equal position alongside men. They welcomed the organized efforts of farmers and others during the populist movement of the late nineteenth century to rein in the excesses of the railroads, banks, and monopolistic enterprises. They will generally support workers of all sorts in their ongoing efforts to improve conditions in the workplace and increase their share of corporate profits. Beyond that, they will advocate for a greater presence of workers within corporate governing structures.

Radicals assert that an elite has dominated the nation from the beginning. For well over a century, from a corporate power base, they have controlled most major decisions in society, ultimately extending their influence around the world. This elite bends both major political parties to its will and successfully wards off serious challenges from the government. They and their associates have enriched themselves greatly and lead privileged lives quite apart from the rest of us. They have no interest in changing the rules of the game.

Radicals today are angry and largely pessimistic about the state of affairs in America. Most disturbing to them are the following:

- A growing income and wealth inequality.
- Deterioration, distress, and despair is evidenced by opioid and drug addiction, increased suicides, upsurge in gambling, crumbling families, gun violence, swollen prison population, personal indebtedness (notably students), de-industrialized, declining cities, and the rapid rise of hate groups.
- A relentless environmental degradation that threatens severe disruptions and dramatic alterations of life on earth in the near future.
- Democracy under assault due to both public anger and indifference, low voter turnout, voter suppression, attacks on the press, corporate influence, and super wealthy campaign donors, along with social media clutter and distortion.
- An ongoing exclusion of radical voices by the established media while liberals are given a platform because they prescribe bandages, not cures, for what ails us, while also decrying radical prescriptions.

While radicals still hope for a renewal of progressive insurgencies (such as Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter) they appear less than confident about such a possibility. Whereas they once called confidently for revolution as the solution, they may be obliged at present to settle for periodic marches on Washington.

—Richard Skolnik

Elegy in a Puddle

Not being here, he can't see
this puddle-portrait of a tree,
much less the tree against the sky
which is the limit of the eye.

If such wonders show us that the cost
of Paradise is that it's lost
then Heaven fitted in a puddle
like a ship is His rebuttal.

—Don Barkin

The annual Monterey skating party was held on January 21. Weather permitting, the rink should remain open until early March, when daytime temps become too high to sustain the ice. For more rink information, see the Monterey, MA Outdoor Skating Rink page at facebook.com. *—Photos by Steve Graves*

Hockey Rink Schedule:

Free Skating: Figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters.
Sundays through Fridays, noon to 7 p.m.
Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Adult hockey:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m.
Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

Skate responsibly!
Please shovel before you leave.

For updates—call Parks Commission at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or
Facebook—Monterey MA Outdoor skating Rink

Monterey DJ Andrew Shaw and Monterey Parks Commissioner Peter Poirier welcome families and friends to the annual skating party at the indoor rink located behind the fire station.

Garlic, by Caitlin Lally, June 1999

George Emmons did this drawing of turkeys in February during a winter snowfall taking shelter in a white pine tree.
His note in the corner says, "Going to roost over Rawson Brook, late winter."
From the March 1999 Monterey News.

Wildlife Report

The reports of healthy, plushy red foxes continue, and people have seen plenty of tracks, too. At the Banners' house on Griswold Road there are at least two adult foxes prospecting about, one who is quite a bit smaller (or at least has smaller feet) than the other.

Steve Snyder has seen foxes in the Gould Farm bioregion and says they are fluffy and pretty. He also says there have been two opossums recently at the farm, one down by the barn and the other up the hill near Topside, which is a big house by the road.

There are big cats still about, including one very big one that Kenn Basler reported back in December. This mountain lion report made the front page of a Sunday *Berkshire Eagle*, in a comprehensive article by Heather Bellow. The bobcat stories keep on coming, with Mickey Jervas having seen one crossing her yard in mid-afternoon, early in January, and our Alford friend Deborah Jowitt having sent us her account of a bobcat's devouring a squirrel right near their house. The cat ate all but the tail, which is what happens here on our kitchen floor when our "domestic" cat Lucas brings in a squirrel. Deborah

took a photograph (above) of the bobcat just after it had finished eating. You can see the belly is full, the cat moving on.

In avian news, Steve Snyder reports that he heard and watched two crows "harassing" a hawk, as he put it. He said the hawk was probably a red-tail, and that the crows were very noisy. Maybe we should say they were haranguing this hawk. Steve also passes on the word that a staffer living at the farm, who maintains a bird feeder, has seen a rose-breasted grosbeak, but no evening grosbeaks. There have been no red-bellied woodpeckers this winter, nor any blue jays. These things are all true here on East Hupi Road, too.

On a recent sub-zero morning, before sunrise, two chickadees were chasing each other through the chokecherries and hazelnuts just below the edge of our garden. This was courtship, which is no respecter of temperatures, clearly.

Mark Ferraro saw a lucky fox trotting "across from the town beach" with a recent catch in its mouth. Mark thinks this was a black squirrel. (See photo below.) Here on the east side of town we see new fox tracks every day and appreciate the fresh snow for this.

Our Hupi neighbor just to the west, Carol Edelman, has had a black squirrel visiting, cleaning up spilled birdseed on the deck. She sent in this photo (below) of a "new kid in town," also the news that she'd seen a "tiny squirrel" on the deck, that looked like it must have been a baby.

In the amphibian department, we have this story from the Banners. They were housecleaning recently and moved their boot-tray. There was a redback salamander secluded under there. Once disturbed, it moved into a crack between the floor and the baseboard

This bobcat visited the Heffernan yard on Mount Hunger Road in late January. There were two bobcats at the same time, enjoyed by the Heffernan family.

and may live in there still. The Banners hope to keep it happy and fed. My book says these are "our most common and abundant salamanders." They can even climb up into bushes looking for hapless small invertebrates, such as spiders. The Banners say they have seen no spiders in their house in recent weeks, which is the case here at our house, too. This happens every winter, with or without redback salamanders on the scene.

Thanks to all you spotters and recounters out and about. We are all wild.

—Bonner McAllester
529-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com.

This Tufted Titmouse was keeping warm during below 0° weather. —Bonsai Cox

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, February 4, at 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, February 13, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, February 11 and 25, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, February 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, February 6, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Regular meetings, Thursdays, February 14 and 28, at 7 p.m.

Planning Board hearing on marijuana bylaw, Wednesday, February 13, 7 p.m., community center.

Select board: Wednesdays, February 6 at 9 a.m., and February 20 at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

(All meetings in the town hall meeting room unless otherwise noted.)

Other News

Going Green

The select board continues pursuing Green Communities designation for Monterey so we can join more than 210 other towns in Massachusetts who are already participating in this valuable state-sponsored program. "Green" status will bring us a substantial grant in monies already earmarked to provide assistance in upgrading energy efficiency measures in our municipal facilities, and will make us eligible for aid for further improvements. Shawn Tryon, director of operations, Don Torrico, building commissioner, the planning board, and Melissa Noe, administrative assistant, have all been helpful in gathering information to work with us and Berkshire Regional Planning, to prepare for grant application. Residents can stay informed and hopefully support our efforts to update zoning for alternative energy and building regulations when we have public hearings and present this information at town meeting.

Save fuel, save money, help the environment—reducing energy use is the right thing to do.

— Carol Edelman, Chair
Kenn Basler and Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org

Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency): 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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February Calendar

Tuesdays: Chair yoga, with Connie Wilson, 9 a.m., community center. Sponsored by the parks commission.

Tuesdays, February 19 and 26: Singing for All, 7 to 8:15 p.m., community center. See page 8.

Thursdays, February 7 and 21: Darn Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 8.

Thursdays, February 7 and 21, and **Saturdays, February 16 and March 2:** Ping pong, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., community center. See page 8.

Wednesday, February 6: Broadband committee recommendation to the select board, 10:30 a.m., town hall. See page 2.

Sunday, February 10: Bidwell House Museum history talk replay. 1 p.m., community center. See page 16.

Monday, February 11: Lake Garfield Working Group, 7 p.m., at town hall. See page 3.

Tuesday, February 12: Movie night, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. 7 p.m., town hall. See page 9.

Wednesday, February 13: Planning board hearing on proposed Marijuana bylaws, at 7 p.m., community center. See page 2.

Thursday, February 14: Information session on "REAL ID" licenses. 10 a.m., community center. See page 8.

Friday, February 15: Showing of *A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.*, 7:30 p.m., community center. See page 8.

Monday, February 18: *Monterey News* deadline.

Wednesday, February 20:

Family mandala design class, 4:30 p.m., community center. See page 8.

Community potluck. Dawn Lemon from TRI to speak. 6 p.m., church basement. See page 5.

Saturday, February 23: Lenox Contra Dance, live music, all dances are called. 8 to 11 p.m., Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. Contact 528-4007. LenoxContraDance.org.

Monday, February 25: Adult book group at 7:30 p.m. *Plastic, A Toxic Love Story*, by Susan Freinkel. See page 8.

Wednesday, February 27: Free concert with Tim VanEgmond, 1 p.m., community center. See page 8.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Library Building Project Blog

Follow the progress of the library project at MontereyMassLibrary.org, go to "Building Project Blog."

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Above: The south side of the main space has windows installed. The door to the outdoor reading deck is to the left of the corner.
Below: The basement floor was poured on Friday, February 1.

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
Wildlife Editor .....Bonner McAllester
Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists:
1999—George Emmons, pgs. 16, 18; Caitlin Lally, p. 28; Glynis Oliver, pgs. 18, 19, 24
2019—George Emmons, p. 26; Bonner McAllester, p. 25.

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